United Nations A/C.5/54/SR.58

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
9 May 2000

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 58th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 31 March 2000, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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Other matters

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the first part of the resumed fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 17: Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments *(continued)*

(f) Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee *(continued)* (A/54/106; A/C.5/54/10/Add.1)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to documents A/54/106 and A/C.5/54/10/Add.1, in which the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of the resignation of Mr. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation) from the United Nations Staff Pension Committee, and of the nomination of Mr. Vislykh (Russian Federation) to fill the remainder of Mr. Kuznetsov's term of office. Since there were no other candidates, she took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of Mr. Vislykh to the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a term beginning on the date of appointment and expiring on 31 December 2000.

2. *Mr. Vislykh (Russian Federation) was recommended for appointment to the United Nations Staff Pension Committee.*

Agenda item 118: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations *(continued)*

Procurement reform: definition of exigency needs (continued) (A/C.5/54/L.43)

Draft decision A/C.5/54/L.43

3. **Mr. Crom** (Netherlands) introduced draft decision A/C.5/54/L.43, containing a definition of exigency needs, on behalf of the Chairman.

4. *Draft decision A/C.5/54/L.43 was adopted.*

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (continued) (A/C.5/54/L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.44

5. **Mr. Jaremczuk** (Poland), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.44, expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.44 was adopted.*

Outsourcing practices in the United Nations (continued) (A/C.5/54/L.48)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.48

7. **Mr. Crom** (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.48 on behalf of the Chairman, said that the draft resolution endorsed the guidelines on outsourcing and, in paragraph 3, requested the Secretary-General to define, in a more detailed way and with justification, the criteria for decisions on which activities and services should or should not be outsourced.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.48 was adopted.*

Strengthening of external oversight mechanisms (continued) (A/C.5/54/L.50)

Draft decision A/C.5/54/L.50

9. **The Chairman,** introducing draft decision A/C.5/54/L.50, expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

10. *Draft decision A/C.5/54/L.50 was adopted.*

11. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba), speaking in explanation of position, said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the understanding that, while the General Assembly was to take note of the reports enumerated in the draft decision, all matters relating to those reports remained under review.

Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (continued) (A/C.5/54/L.55)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.55

12. **Mr. Van de Velde** (Belgium), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.55 on behalf of the Chairman, said that paragraphs 3 to 6 of the draft resolution dealt with a number of issues relating to reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). He urged the draft resolution's adoption by consensus.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.55 was adopted.*

14. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba), speaking in explanation of position, said that the draft resolution just adopted confirmed what was stated in General Assembly resolution 54/244 regarding the role of the General Assembly in the consideration of the reports of OIOS. Her delegation trusted that future reports of OIOS

would take account of the recommendations contained in the draft resolution and would be confined to matters within the Office's terms of reference, so that the Committee would be able to focus on the substantive issues addressed in the reports.

Improving the working methods of the Fifth Committee

15. **The Chairman** suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should decide to defer consideration of the question of improving the working methods of the Fifth Committee to the second part of its resumed fifty-fourth session.

16. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 119: Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 *(continued)*

Integrated Management Information System (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/54/L.45

17. **Mr. Jaremczuk** (Poland), introducing draft decision A/C.5/54/L.45 on the Integrated Management Information System, urged its adoption by consensus.

18. *Draft decision A/C.5/54/L.45 was adopted.*

Agenda item 120: Programme planning *(continued)* (A/C.5/54/L.46 and A/C.5/54/L.47)

Draft decisions A/C.5/54/L.46 and A/C.5/54/L.47

19. **The Chairman**, introducing draft decisions A/C.5/54/L.46 and A/C.5/54/L.47, expressed the hope that they would be adopted by consensus.

20. *Draft decisions A/C.5/54/L.46 and A/C.5/54/L.47 were adopted.*

Agenda item 121: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 *(continued)*

Review of resource requirements for the High-level Intergovernmental Event for Financing for Development and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (continued) (A/C.5/54/L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.49

21. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.49, said that the draft resolution reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters. The Secretary-General was requested, in paragraph 5, to report to the Assembly at the second part of its resumed session on ways of meeting the resource requirements for the High-level Intergovernmental Event for Financing for Development and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. She expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.49 was adopted.*

23. **Ms. Archini** (Italy) said that her Government had decided to make a voluntary contribution of 200 million lire, approximately $100,000, to defray the costs of participation of government representatives of least developed countries in the Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Agenda item 124: Pattern of conferences *(continued)* (A/C.5/54/L.42)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.42

24. **Ms. González Posse** (Argentina), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.42 on behalf of the Chairman, said that the updated report of the Secretary-General on publications policy should be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, not at its fifty-fifth session as stated in the fifth footnote to the draft resolution.

25. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that there were a number of problems with the translation into Arabic of paragraph 8 of the draft resolution. He would submit a list of the necessary corrections to the Secretariat.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.42, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Agenda item 169: Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor *(continued)* (A/C.5/54/L.51)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.51

27. **Mr. Darwish** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.51 on behalf of the Chairman, expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

28. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.51 was adopted.*

Agenda item 173: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor *(continued)* (A/C.5/54/L.52)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.52

29. **Mr. Darwish** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.52 on behalf of the Chairman, urged its adoption by consensus.

30. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.52 was adopted.*

Agenda item 175: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo *(continued)* (A/C.5/54/L.53)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.53

31. **Mr. Mirmohammad** (Islamic Republic of Iran), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.53 on behalf of the Chairman, said that in paragraph 10, the Secretary-General was authorized to enter into commitments for the Mission for the period from 6 August 1999 to 30 June 2000 in an amount not exceeding $200 million gross, inclusive of the amount of $41,011,200 gross previously authorized by the Advisory Committee. In paragraph 11, it was decided that that amount should be apportioned among Member States. He trusted that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

32. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.53 was adopted.*

Agenda item 127: Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services *(continued)*

33. **Mr. Van de Velde** (Belgium) said he regretted to report that it had not been possible to conclude informal consultations on agenda item 127. Although considerable progress had been made, more time was needed to finalize the text of a draft resolution on the subject.

34. **The Chairman** suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should defer consideration of agenda item 127 to its fifty-fifth session.

35. *It was so decided.*

36. **Ms. Achouri** (Tunisia) said she regretted that consensus had not been reached on a draft resolution, considering the amount of effort that had been made and the fact that only one paragraph had not yet been agreed upon. Because of the item's deferral, the Fifth Committee would probably take a week to complete what it could have completed in an hour if more time had been available in the current part of the resumed session. She hoped that delegations would bear that in mind when they reverted to the item.

Agenda item 118: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations *(continued)*

Agenda item 164: Human resources management (*continued)*

Gratis personnel (continued)

37. **Mr. Chandra** (India) said that the informal consultations on gratis personnel had been substantive but inconclusive and that no draft resolution had been agreed upon.

38. **The Chairman** suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should defer consideration of the question of gratis personnel provided by Governments to the second part of its resumed fifty-fourth session.

39. *It was so decided.*

Proposed Regulations Governing the Status, Basic Rights and Duties of Officials other than Secretariat Officials and Experts on Mission (continued)

Regulations governing the status, basic rights and duties of the Secretary-General (continued)

40. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said it was important that the General Assembly should take a well-informed decision on the proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations, given the sensitivity of the issue. When the Fifth Committee reverted to the issue, the Secretariat should provide all the information requested and, possibly, additional proposals for action.

41. **The Chairman** suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should defer consideration of the proposed Regulations Governing the Status, Basic Rights and Duties of Officials other than Secretariat Officials and Experts on Mission and of the regulations governing the status, basic rights and duties of the Secretary-General to its fifty-fifth session.

42. *It was so decided.*

43. **Ms. Achouri** (Tunisia) said she regretted that such an important issue was being deferred to the next session. In the interim, the Secretariat should take due note of the concerns of delegations, consult with all heads of intergovernmental organizations elected by the General Assembly and settle all legal questions before it submitted its report to the General Assembly. In particular, that report should deal with the distinction between the responsibilities of officials appointed by the Secretary-General and those of officials elected by the General Assembly.

44. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) said that she shared the views of the Tunisian delegation. At the next session, the Committee should consider a series of issues with a view to avoiding any misinterpretations, including concrete proposals on the application of the proposed regulations to the different categories of staff mentioned by the Tunisian delegation.

Agenda item 164: Human resources management *(continued)*

45. **Mr. Chandra** (India) said he regretted to report that no draft resolution on human resources management had been agreed upon. Since the Committee would be focusing on personnel issues at the fifty-fifth session, it could revert to the item at that time.

46. **Ms. Aragon** (Philippines) said that, since a great deal of work had already been done on the draft resolution on human resources management, the Committee should continue its consideration of that item at the second part of the resumed fifty-fourth session.

47. **Mr. Fedorov** (Russian Federation) said that, in view of the Committee's heavy workload for the second part of the resumed fifty-fourth session, he supported the proposal to defer the item to the fifty-fifth session.

48. **Ms. Achouri** (Tunisia) said that she supported the proposal put forward by the representative of the Philippines, since it would be irresponsible of the Committee to postpone its consideration of issues that affected the rights of United Nations staff. However, she would be willing to join any consensus reached by the Committee.

49. **The Chairman** asked the representative of the Philippines to accept the recommendation put forward by the representative of India, who had coordinated the informal consultations on the item. The Committee had a very full agenda for the second part of the resumed fifty-fourth session, at which it would focus on peacekeeping issues. Since human resources issues would be the focus of the fifty-fifth session, it seemed preferable to defer the item until that time.

50. *It was so decided.*

51. **Mr. Yamagiwa** (Japan) said that he was deeply concerned about the Secretariat's lack of responsiveness during the Committee's consideration of human resources issues. More than 100 days had elapsed since his delegation had requested a number of corrections and clarifications of the report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat (A/54/279), yet no additional corrigenda had been issued to date, and the Secretariat had provided little response to those concerns, either formally or informally. Although a comprehensive review of human resources management was not on the agenda of the current session, the Secretariat must nonetheless respond appropriately to queries from Member States. Its failure to do so had made it difficult for the Committee to consider or take action expeditiously on

the matter. He hoped that the Secretariat would ensure that that situation did not recur at the fifty-fifth session.

52. **Ms. Aragon** (Philippines) said she regretted that the discussion of human resources management was to be deferred to the fifty-fifth session. Her delegation had continuing reservations about General Assembly resolution 53/221, section V, paragraph 22, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the competitive examination for promotion to the Professional category of staff members from other categories (G to P examination) in the context of the report on human resources management to be submitted at the fifty-fifth session.

53. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) said that she, too, would have preferred more systematic follow-up of the vitally important human resources issues that had been discussed at the current part of the resumed session. With respect to the delegation of authority, she was concerned to note that some of the measures implemented went beyond what the General Assembly had decided by its resolution 53/221, section IV. At the fifty-fifth session, the Committee should pay special attention to that issue, particularly in terms of its possible effects on the health and the work environment of United Nations staff.

54. **Mr. Fedorov** (Russian Federation) said that the Secretary-General's report on the G to P examination was already available. The Secretariat must adhere strictly to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 53/221.

55. **Mr. Tadesse** (Ethiopia) said he regretted that the discussion of human resources management was to be deferred to the fifty-fifth session. He recalled that, when the General Assembly had adopted resolution 53/221, the Group of 77 had requested information on the implications of section V, paragraph 22. The Secretary-General's response had indicated that the implications were not positive. However, the Committee had not given enough thought to the issue; he agreed with the representative of Tunisia on the need to do justice to Secretariat staff, and therefore requested that the Secretary-General should submit a comprehensive review of the implications of that resolution at the fifty-fifth session.

Agenda item 125: Scale of assessment for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations *(continued)* (A/C.5/54/L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.54

56. **Mr. Smyth** (Ireland) said that consensus had not yet been reached on draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.54, and requested a suspension of the meeting so that further consultations could be held.

The meeting was suspended at 4.50 p.m. and resumed at 8.35 p.m.

57. **Mr. Smyth** (Ireland), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.54, said that a number of changes to the text circulated to members had been made as a result of the informal consultations. First, in section A, paragraph 4, the country names in parentheses should be deleted, and the number "12" should be inserted in the blank in the second line. Paragraph 4 (d) should be deleted. Paragraph 4 (i) should read: "A proposal to include the following elements and criteria in (i) to (viii) and a response to (ix):". The following should be inserted after paragraph 4 (i) (viii): "(ix) To examine the long-term implications of the present criteria for determining the threshold of the low per capita income adjustment, and to recommend to the General Assembly, at its fifty-fifth session, possible alternatives with a view to maintaining in the long run the overall benefit for all developing countries and to avoiding the continuous exclusion of middle-income developing countries from the benefit of the adjustment;".

58. In section B, the square brackets should be removed from paragraph 1. In paragraph 2 (c), the square brackets should be removed and words following "at its fifty-fifth session" in the third line should be deleted. Paragraph 3 should be deleted and replaced by the following:

> "*Welcomes* the agreement of the Committee on Contributions to consider more systematic criteria and approaches to deciding when market exchange rates should be replaced for the purposes of preparing the scale, and looks forward to further reports."

59. **Mr. Ramos** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that it had been his understanding, from the informal consultations, that the phrase "at its fifty-fifth session" was redundant and should be deleted from new paragraph 4 (i) (ix) of

section A. Furthermore, in section B, paragraph 2 (c), the word "recommend" in the third line should be replaced by "report on".

60. **Ms. Moglia** (Argentina) said that the square brackets in the second preambular paragraph should be removed.

61. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.54, as orally amended, was adopted.*

62. **Mr. Ramos** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union in explanation of position, said that a great deal of flexibility had been shown by all parties in the informal consultations, and he hoped that the improved atmosphere of compromise would continue.

63. **Mr. Lozinsky** (Russian Federation) said that, while his delegation had not objected in principle to the draft resolution, as it was mainly procedural in nature, it did not agree with some of the elements included by some countries and groups.

64. **Ms. Nossel** (United States of America) said that her delegation was pleased at the progress made, and although much remained to be done, it was confident that, in a spirit of compromise, a solution could be found.

65. **Mr. Hassan** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group of 77 looked forward to a positive negotiating process at the next part of the resumed session.

66. **Mr. Vantsevich** (Belarus) said that his delegation regarded the 12 options not as elements for a future methodology of the scale of assessments, but only as possible options for discussion.

Other matters

67. **Mr. El Gammal** (Egypt) requested that the Secretariat should prepare, by the first week of the second part of the resumed session, a detailed paper listing all promotions to supervisory positions in the United Nations Security Service over the past three years. That list should include nationality, years of service and information on the selection process.

68. **Mr. Hassan** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he wished to clarify that the Group of 77 had not taken any position on the G to P exam.

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the first part of the resumed fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly

69. **The Chairman** declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work at the first part of the resumed fifty-fourth session.

The meeting rose at 9.15 p.m.